

*The Easley Messenger.*

J. R. HAGOOD, Editor.

## AIKEN'S REFUSAL TO AID US.

It is with regret that we have noticed Aiken's refusal to aid us in the building of the Carolina Cumberland Gap and Chicago R. R. The town which was to be the terminus of this grand trunk line to the West; within whose corporate limits, there was to be erected the rail-road shops, the very life of enterprise itself; and into whose bosom the enormous wealth of much of the West, was to be poured, has exhibited a selfish spirit, which should be frowned down upon by every civilized community of our country. When a set of people become so clanish and close, as to see no further than the end of their nose, we may expect no enterprise to receive its merited attention in their midst, but on the other hand it is natural to believe, that any enterprise which they might attempt to carry on for the good of their county, will come to a dead halt; and such a community should start over again to learn the alphabet of enterprise, or submit as lost in the boundless fields of ignorance. Aiken acted, however, in the manner in which she was expected to act. When the land-owners went so far as to attempt bull-dozing in order to prevent a subscription to the grandest railroad scheme ever inaugurated in the State of South Carolina, then a huge wall should have been placed between them and the outside world, until they could fully realize that "man liveth not to himself." Awakening them to a sense of their duty toward themselves and the remainder of mankind they will be better fitted to use the means which "The God of Nature" has placed at their disposal, for the accomplishment of good to humanity. It is hardly probable that Gov. Hagood's energy will be relaxed to any great extent by Aiken's refusal to lend a helping hand. On the contrary, we would like to see it act as an incentive to Gov. Hagood to push forward with increased energy toward the consummation of this grand enterprise. Though living near Aiken, he is "not of that number who are ignorant in spite of experience." He is a man too well acquainted with humanity and the affairs of this world, to be overcome by one or more clanish set of individuals, who may raise their voices against an enterprise which would bring them increased wealth, enlarge their contracted ideas, and

place them in an enviable position to the minds of other people. Aiken's refusal to vote a subscription will doubtless occasion the same act on the part of Edgefield. It is a pity that all could not show Aiken their determination to aid in the completion of this road.

Will all of our people that can, attend the mass meeting at Pickens Court House on — inst. Go there with the determination to do your part either in the meeting, or when another time comes for the furtherance of this noble work. The anti-subscription men at Aiken won by a majority of eleven. When the election takes place in our county, let there not be more than eleven votes in all against a large subscription. Do not go to the polls with narrow minds and selfish hearts; but go feeling that you will get "value received" for the efforts you may lend to the enterprise which will do so much for our country's good.

## DEFECTIVE LAWS AND WHAT THEY COST US.

From the following figures, taken from the County Commissioners Report, published in the 'Union Times,' it would seem that the Coroner's office of that county is the best paying office in it, considering the time, labor, etc. For the fiscal year '82-'83, the first inquest being held November 22nd, 1882, and the last one in said fiscal year, being held September 10, 1883, making, we believe, 9 months and 18 days, there were 17 inquests by the Coroner, and 3 by Trial Justices—20 in all—footing up to the county \$258.95. Then add to that amount \$12.85 for Coroner's Constable costs, and post mortems by physicians, \$178.85, and we have a total of \$480.65, outside of the cost of books, blanks, &c.

Now compare the hangings with that number. We will suppose that one-half of the inquests were caused from murder, (10). Hangings one—and that we believe for house-burning.

Well, where does the fault lay? Why, in the defective laws, of course. We venture to say that it is the largest exhibit of any county in the State, when we consider that it is one of the smallest counties.

These are pretty tall figures for the tax payers to pay for that one item, and it is a matter that should be looked into by the people of every county in the State, and the causes of death of the Coroner's subjects published, so that we may see and know if the most of them do not originate from cold-blooded

murders, encouraged by the flimsy laws of these latter days, the murderers having no fear of them, knowing as they do, the loop-holes that are left for their escape. It is almost impossible to frame an indictment of any kind now, that a shrewd lawyer cannot have set aside, and postponed from one Court to another, thereby increasing court expenses, &c., on some technicality.

Such laws are worse than no laws, and the people should at once claim from our Legislators more attention on important subjects, and less on trivial matters. The most ignorant have learned that there is little danger of the rope for murder; and the intelligent, in many instances, have no compunction of conscience, or dread of law, when insulted, as they term it. If he has plenty of money to employ able counsel, he need not fear. Then why not make the criminal laws iron-bound, and see that the right men are put in the right place, to enforce them. We must have a few first-class hangings before some people will realize that there is any law, whatever.

Another matter we would refer to in regard to the laws of inquest, and that is:

There is numbers of cases where an inquest is held, and the Coroner's, Constable's and Physicians' accounts rendered and settled, where the victim is known to have died from natural or accidental causes, their death being witnessed by their family or friends. It is not only an expense to tax payers, but it is humiliating to the relatives and friends to see them dissected, through post mortem examinations after they have passed into the silent shades of death. We do not blame the Coroner for holding them, or the physician for his post mortem, for the law allows it, therefore we have no blame only for the law. We do not assert that our law makers intentionally make these defects in the law, but that it is an over-sight, or from too much haste in getting from one to another, and trying to get through so many laws in so many days, and work on "pet schemes," in some instances. We say, look first to the important part, and let the trivial parts lay over until they are forgotten, and then we will be bettered, and not before.

We again say, that to check the torrent of murders throughout the State, there must be a few more hangings. As it is, no man is safe, if he accidentally or otherwise insults another. This is not the on-

ly law either that is flimsy and causes expense to the counties, that should be looked after.

X.

—Another cold-blooded murder in Greenville, on Sunday. Both colored. No cause, and no dread of the gallows, we suppose. Greenville has become noted for such crimes in the past two years. Is it their bad whiskey, or are they naturally game? We will charge it to the accursed whiskey, as it is so essential for whiskey to be sold there, in order to raise a revenue, no matter about other consequences. James McCullough shot Ephraim Saxon through the head, killing him instantly, and that is all. A trial; an appeal; Justice delayed; the county to pay the fiddler, etc., So much for our criminal laws. Reform is needed. Shall we have it.

—On Tuesday last, the first shovel full of dirt toward the building of the Greenville and Laurens Railroad was thrown by President Mauldin, at Greenville, and a big time generally was had by an enthusiastic crowd, and it is to be hoped that it will soon be completed, and that they may derive the benefits they so well deserve and anticipate, from it. She has the vim when it comes to Railroads, and we would like to have seen Aiken take the same interest as Greenville, in the matter of the C. C. G. & C. R. R., and then our road would not have been delayed, perhaps for 2 or 3 years.

—Owing to the large amount of local matter, editorial and communications, we are compelled to omit a good deal of interesting news from outside our county.

KILLED INSTANTLY.—Tuesday as the down train on the C and G Railroad rounding a curve near Chippell's Depot, the engineer saw a man sitting on the cross ties. Before the train could be stopped the locomotive struck the man and threw him some distance. It was found that he was Thomas Haynes, an old man who has led somewhat of a wandering life through this section. His skull was fractured and life was extinct. He is from Anderson county, having lived in the vicinity of Townsville.—Daily News.

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Feb 15--tf